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Current Support Brief

CIA/RR CB 62-57

No. Pages 3
13 September 1962
Copy No.

25X1

EAST GERMANY EXTENDS SED COMMAND-CONTROL
COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK INTO ALL KREISE



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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Enlargement of the East German SED microwave radio relay network (SPINNE), a priority program in progress since 1959, is nearing completion. When completed, the network will provide direct connections between SED Headquarters in East Berlin and SED headquarters in the 215 Kreise (counties) of East Germany. Previously the SED network connected only SED Headquarters in East Berlin with the 14 SED Bezirke (District) headquarters and the Bezirke headquarters with each other. The target date for completion was set for mid-1962, but it now appears that the over-all network will not be finished until the end of 1962 or early in 1963 (see the accompanying map).

In addition to its great enlargement, the network incorporates two new unique features to enhance timely contact with key SED officials anywhere in the country during crises. First, direct, immediate connections with the network will be provided in the homes of key SED officials and in the offices of those who are not stationed at headquarters. Second, a private SED special mobilization frequency modulation (FM) radiobroadcasting network is being established so that between 18,000 and 25,000 dependable SED members can be alerted at their homes or offices. This network is to consist of some 70 transmitters with a range of 50 kilometers and will be so located as to cover the country by interconnection with the microwave radio relay network. Special fixed-tuned receivers in the 40-megacycle band assigned to the SED members probably will be automatically turned on from headquarters as needed.

These novel developments strongly suggest that the SED hierarchy is attempting further to overcome the inability of the command-control structures to contain rapidly such uprisings as occurred in 1953 because main communications lines were sabotaged. This whole new complex, which will complement wireline connections, should greatly improve the ability of the SED to cope with dissident civil and military elements.

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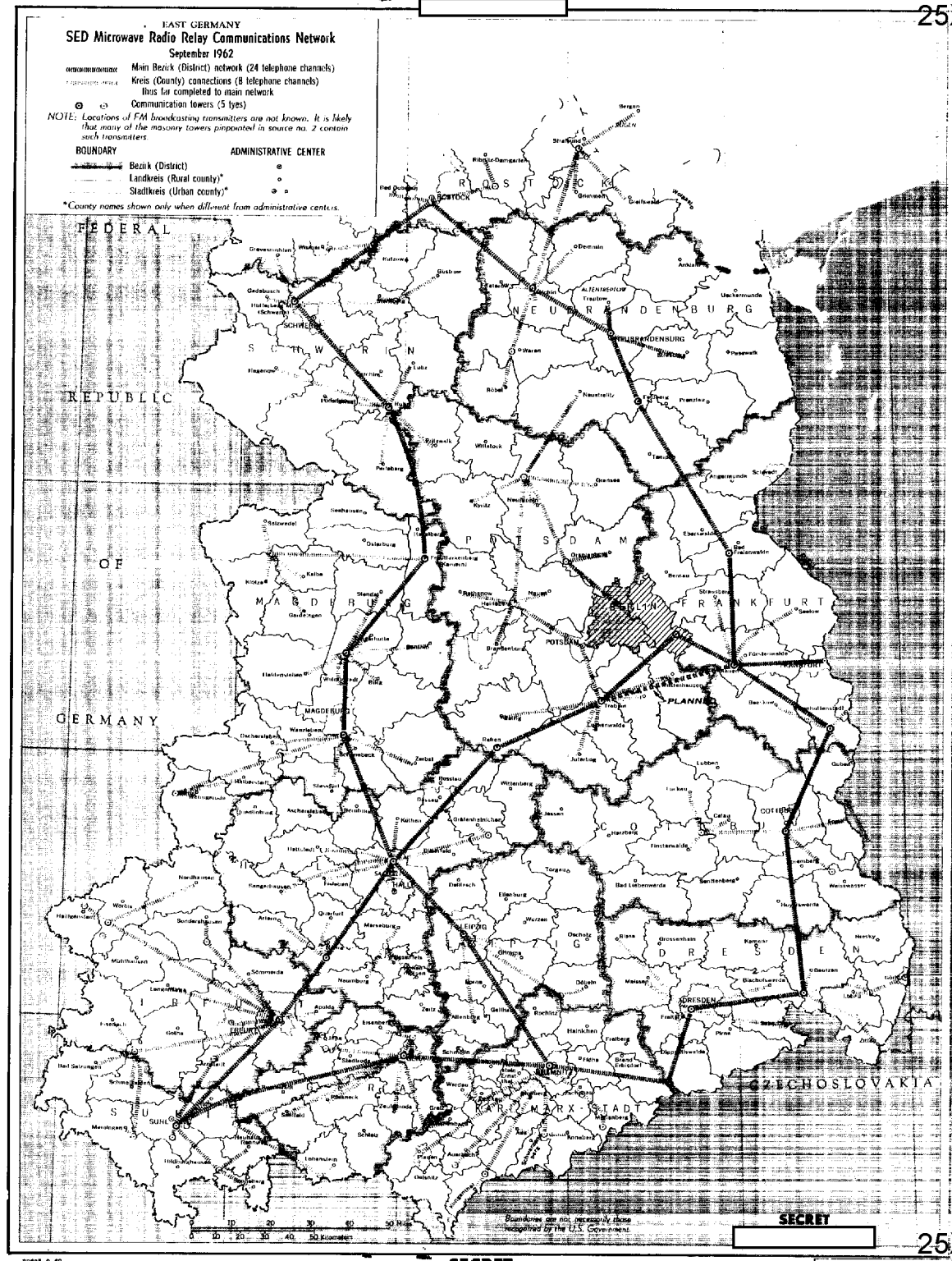
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